



OLD EDISON MOVIE STUDIO IN THE BRONX SOLD

Building on Decatur Avenue where the late Thomas A. Edison pioneered in production of motion pictures
Garrington

A landmark in the Bronx that cradled the motion-picture industry in its infancy has been sold by the heirs of Thomas A. Edison, a pioneer in the field. The property is at 2826 Decatur Avenue, corner of Oliver Street, and is the original Edison studio and one of the first of its kind in this country.

The sale, however, will not end the old three-story building's connection with moving picture production, because the Croydon Operating Company, the buyer, will continue to make pictures there.

The studio building, one of the first built in the United States, occupies a plot fronting 101 feet on Decatur Avenue and 120 feet on Oliver Street. It was sold through Brett, Wyckoff, Potter, Hamilton, Inc., for the D. & O. Realty Corporation, representing the Edison family. Randolph Montgomery of

Gerdes & Montgomery, attorneys, represented the seller and Hovel, Clarkson & Klupt acted for the buyer.

William L. Jamison, now field director of the Museum of Modern Art and a pioneer in the movie field in the days of the "Kinetoscope," recalls some interesting incidents in the early history of the Bronx studio. It was there, he says, that D. W. Griffith got his start, earning \$3 a day as an extra in "Rescue from an Eagle's Nest." The eagle's eyrie was made in the studio and Griffith, in wig and beard, had to climb up and be clawed by a great mechanical bird.

A picture of the property taken in 1908 shows an all-glass studio in front of which is an auto-bus used to transport the Edison Stock Company on location. The glass studio was necessary because artificial light was not in use and the first

Edison pictures were taken in the "Black Maria," a studio moved about on a circular track to catch the changing sunlight.

The Decatur Avenue site was bought by Mr. Edison in 1905, two years after the production under the direction of E. S. Porter of "The Great Train Robbery," one of the first "shot" with the new projecting machines. Mr. Porter and Mr. Jamison were placed in charge of the new studio and there the Edison Stock Company made such feature showings as "Uncle Tom's Cabin." In the latter, exterior sets were painted on canvas and movable "props" such as stoves, beds, chairs, and even people in the background were represented by painted canvas.

The studio was operated during the World War by other interests but later reverted to the Edison family.